



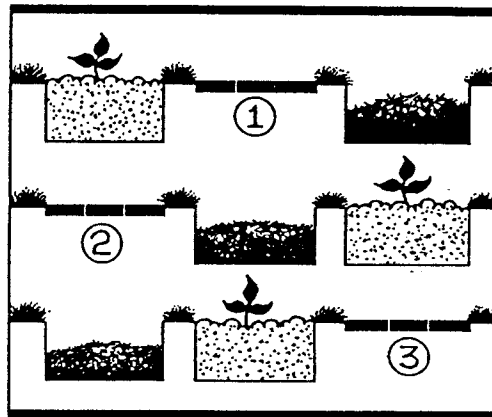
Trench Composting and Compostholing

Trench Composting

Trench composting is a less popular composting method although some gardeners swear by it for rapid improvement of unusually poor soils.

- Dig trenches 12 inches deep and 18 inches wide, the length of a garden row.
- Fill these trenches with various compost materials such as hay, leaves, weeds, tree trimmings, and grass.
- Pack the materials down and cover it with manure, water, and mulch.

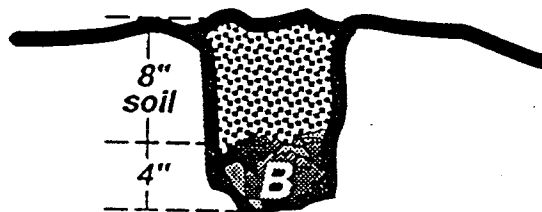
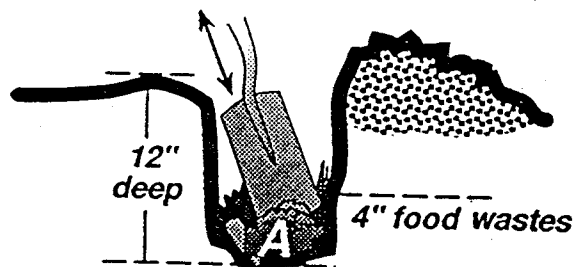
*If you are planting directly into the trenches, you will want to top the trench with topsoil to avoid nitrogen depletion.



Compostholing

- Dig a posthole 12 to 18 inches deep.
- Bury organic yard debris, topping it off with a handful or two of manure.
- Cover the hole with the best of the topsoil that was removed and scatter the rest.

*Watering is usually not necessary, as the hole tends to collect enough moisture to ensure proper composting.



An additional hint:

Keep the posthole digger with you at planting time. After planting your rows, dig holes in the center of a row or between plants and fill them as described. This way, feeder roots will seek out the fresh compost as the plants grow. The compost holes serve to hold the moisture, and a weak compost tea leaches out to feed the plants.